

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 05287 112226Z

66/11
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

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R 110807Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9064
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
DIA WASHDC
USMISSION USUN

CONFIDENTIAL DAMASCUS 5287

CORRECTED COPY (MRN 5287 VICE 5286)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, SY, UR, PLO
SUBJECT: SYRIAN COMMUNIST PARTY SUPPORT OF DAMASCUS ACCORD

1. COMMUNIST PARTY OF SYRIA (CPS) HAS DISTRIBUTED FLYER
ANNOUNCING ITS SUPPORT FOR DAMASCUS ACCORD SIGNED JULY 27,
WHICH IT CHARACTERIZED AS "POSITIVE EVENT" AND "GREAT
VICTORY FOR ARAB LIBERATION MOVEMENT." RESTORATION OF
SYRO-PALESTINIAN COHESION IN AFTERMATH OF ACCORD WILL PERMIT
PARTIES TO DIRECT ENERGIES TOWARD OPPOSING AMERICAN
IMPERIALISM, PARTIAL SETTLEMENTS SUCH AS SINAI AGREEMENT
AND TWOARD LIBERATION OF OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES.
DAMASCUS ACCORD "FOILED ATTEMPT TO SAUDI-EGYPTIAN AXIS TO
EXHAUST SYRIANS AND PALESTINIANS AND DRAG THEM INTO
CAPITULATIONIST SADATI POLICY."

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PAGE 02 DAMASC 05287 112226Z

2. CPS ASSERTED THAT DAMASCUS ACCORD ENJOYED WIDESPREAD SUPPORT FROM "ESSENTIAL FACTIONS" IN PLO, SYRIAN MASSES AND SYRIAN PROGRESIVE NATIONAL FRONT (PFN) TO WHICH CPS BELONGS. DOCUMENT CONTINUED, "CPS DECLARES ITS SUPPORT FOR DAMASCUS ACCORD AND ITS READINESS TO EXERT MAXIMUM EFFORT TO ACHIEVE ITS REALIZATION. SOVIET UNION AND SOCIALIST CAMP WELCOMED ACCORD." CPS CLAIMED THAT EGYPT, ISRAEL, US, CHAMOUNISTS AND OLD-LINE LEBANESE MUSLIM LEADERS OPPOSED AGREEMENT. LEBANESE LEFTIST RESISTANCE TO ACCORD WAS ACKNOWLEDGED, AND DOCUMENT RECOMMENDED THAT "ROLE OF LEBANESE PROGRESSIVE FORCES SHOULD BE TO CONTRIBUTE TO SUCCESS OF ACCORD AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION BECAUSE ACCORD IN THEIR BEST INTEREST. DOCUMENT CONCLUDED WITH APPEAL TO LEBANESE LEFTIST/PALESTINIAN COALITION TO CEASE "MARGINAL BATTLES" AND DIRECT THEIR ATTENTION TOWARD LIBERATION OF OCCUPIED LANDS AND SAFEGUARDING OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS.

3. COMMENT: TRADITIONALLY, CPS AND ITS SEC GEN BAKDASH HAVE BEEN AMONG MOST CONSISTENT SUPPORTERS OF SOVIET POLICY LINE IN REGION. ASSUMING THAT VIEWS CONTAINED IN CPS DOCUMENT ARE IN GENERAL ACCORD WITH THOSE OF MOSCOW, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATION OF DAMASCUS AGREEMENT HAS PARTIALLY RELIEVED SOVIET REGIME FROM HAVING TO CHOOSE BETWEEN LEBANESE LEFTIST/PALESTINIAN SIDE AND SYRIANS. AGREEMENT HAS PROVIDED SOVIETS WITH VEHICLE FOR CAJOLING BOTH SIDES TO IMPLEMENT TERMS OF SETTLEMENT.
MURPHY

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